GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1101
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Post Harvest Losses of Fruits, Vegetables and Foodgrains
Noor Smt. Mausam;Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 40 to 50 percent of fruits, vegetables and foodgrains are damaged primarily due to insect infestation, microbiological contamination physiological changes due to sprouting and ripening and lack of cold storages;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address the issue of post harvest losses of fruits, vegetables and foodgrains in the country; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to make any action plan to avoid the wastages of these produce, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): A study was commissioned by Ministry of Food Processing Industries and carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), published in 2015, estimated that quantum of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of agricultural produce were in the range of 4.65% to 5.99% (cereals), 6.36% to 8.41% (pulses), 3.08% to 9.96% (oil seeds), 6.70% to 15.88% (fruits), 4.58% to 12.44% (vegetables), 5.23% to 10.52% (fish), 2.71% (meat) and 0.92% (milk).

(b) & (c): In order to address the issue of post harvest losses of Fruits and Vegetables, Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Under MIDH assistance is provided for Post Harvest Management (PHM) and food processing. Post Harvest Management includes establishment of cold storages, primary/mobile processing units, pack houses, pre-cooling units, controlled atmosphere storage, reefer vans, and setting up to ripening chambers. These components are demand & entrepreneur driven for which credit linked back ended subsidy is available through respective State Horticulture Missions. Under PHM component, credit linked back ended subsidy @ 35% in general areas and 50% hilly and tribal areas is available for creation of various types of post-harvest infrastructure.

In order to address the issue of post harvest losses of food grains, Government is implementing Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM). The scheme is effective from 01.04.2014 after subsuming erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) and Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization (AMIGS).
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